

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 00158 01 OF 02 101717Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----107146 101723Z /41

O 101616Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4440

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 0158

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: US, XF, YO  
SUBJ: TITO LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON ARAFAT VISIT

REF: BELGRADE 0005

1. TEXT OF PRESIDENT TITO'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON ARAFAT VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA GIVEN TO ME BY ASSE SECY BERNARDIC JAN 10TH. CONTENT HOLDS NO REAL SURPRISES BUT THERE ARE SOME INTRIGUING NUANCES IN THE YUGOSLAV POSITION WHICH I BELIEVE ARE WORTH PURSUING. THIS STILL YOUNG PRACTICE OF EXCHANGING LETTERS BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS HAS HAD VERY POSITIVE IMPACT HERE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: MR. PRESIDENT, THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES WE HAVE ESTABLISHED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT A JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE FOR THE WORLD AS A WHOLE, AS WELL AS FOR OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I SHOULD ALSO WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND YOUR PERSONAL ENDEAVOURS TO ACHIEVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST A COMPREHENSIVE AND LASTING SETTLEMENT OF THE CRISIS,  
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WHICH HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY THREATENING PEACE NOT ONLY IN THIS REGION, BUT ALSO ON A BROADER INTERNATIONAL PLANE.

3. I SHARE THE OPINION, WHICH YOU, TOO, HAVE EXPRESSED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, THAT THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS THE CENTRAL ONE AND THAT IT CONSTITUTES THE KEY FOR THE SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS IN THE

MIDDLE EAST. THIS IS WHY IT CANNOT BE EXCLUDED FROM THE COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AND WHY IT SHOULD BE APPROACHED IN A MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO THE BROADER INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS WELL AS TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

4. THE PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, YASSIR ARAFAT, PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA TOWARDS THE END OF LAST YEAR. I FEEL THAT THE OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS THAT I AND MY ASSOCIATES GAINED FROM THE TALKS WE HAD WITH HIM AND WITH THE PLO DELEGATION COULD CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE REALISTIC AND BROADER UNDERSTANDING OF ALL ASPECTS RELEVANT TO THE SOLUTION OF THE CRISIS.

5. ON THE BASIS OF AN INALIENABLE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, WHICH CONSTITUTES AN ESSENTIAL AND GENERALLY RECOGNIZED ELEMENT OF THE CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL ORDER, THE PLO INSISTS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT STATE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. REALISTICALLY PERCEIVING, AT THE SAME TIME, THE DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS AND RELATIONS IN THE REGION, THE PLO LEADERS ARE AWARE THAT THE INTERESTS OF THEIR PEOPLE, BOTH IN THE PRESENT AND IN THE FUTURE, CONFIDENTIAL

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PROMPT THEM TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH JORDAN, IN WHICH THE PALESTINIANS COMPRISE THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION. THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT NOTHING BUT THE STATUS OF AN INDEPENDENT STATE COULD, IN THE ONCOMING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MODALITIES OF SUCH A COMMON STATE STRUCTURE WITH JORDAN, FULLY GUARANTEE AN EQUITABLE TREATMENT AND FULL REALIZATION OF THEIR LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS.

6. ONCE AGAIN I BECAME CONVINCED THAT FORCES DEDICATED TO THE ACHIEVING OF A REALISTIC AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT HAVE BEEN GAINING STRENGTH AMONG THE TOP LEADERS OF THE PLO. THE FULL AND EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION OF THE PLO IN THE PROCESS OF RESOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS COULD NOT BUT POSITIVELY AFFECT THE SITUATION WITHIN THIS ORGANIZATION AND ASSERT THE FORCES FAVOURING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. OTHERWISE, I WISH TO UNDERSCORE IT IN PARTICULAR, DEVELOPMENTS MIGHT TAKE PLACE WHICH WOULD CAUSE A DETERIORATION OF THE OVERALL SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND COULD

CONSIDERABLY RENDER MORE DIFFICULT THE EFFORTS  
AIMED AT FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE  
PROBLEMS OF THIS REGION, AND ESPECIALLY TO THE  
PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4441

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 0158

EXDIS

7. ON MY PART, I SUGGESTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PLO THAT A PEACEFUL  
SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, ON THE  
BASIS OF THE ALREADY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES, IS THE  
ONLY POSSIBLE AVENUE FOR THE REALIZATION OF THEIR  
LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS. I POINTED OUT AT THAT  
TIME, TOO, THAT THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL MUST BE  
ACCEPTED AS A FACT AND THAT IT IS INDISPENASBLE TO  
ADAPT ONESELF TO THE CREATED SITUATION, WHICH CALLS  
ALSO FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGHER LEVEL OF  
CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE PLO AND THE ARAB  
COUNTRIES, EGYPT IN PARTICULAR.

8. IT IS MY FIRM BELIEF THAT, IN THE INTEREST OF THE  
SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AND THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE IN THIS REGION, IT WOULD BE OF  
UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT DIRECT CONTACTS BE ESTABLISHED  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA AND THE LEADING  
PLO PERSONALITIES.

9. THE DISPOSITION OF THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION IN  
THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN  
THE SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. IT IS

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OUR CONVICTION THAT THIS POPULATION CAN RENDER A  
CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESOLUTION OF THIS  
QUESTION, IF THE PLO IS ACCEPTED AND RECOGNIZED,  
SINCE, IN OUR ASSESSMENT, THIS ORGANIZATION

EXERCISES A DOMINANT INFLUENCE ON THE OPTION OF THE  
JPALESTINIANS IN TRANSJORDAN AND THE GAZA.

10. A FEW DAYS AGO I RECEIVED A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM  
PRESIDENT MOHAMED

ANWAR EL-SADAT INFORMING ME OF THE  
SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND OF THE LATEST STEPS  
AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL. I PAY GREAT ATTENTION  
TO THE VIEWS AND POSITIONS OF PRESIDENT SADAT. IT  
APPEARS ALSO FROM HIS MESSAGE, THAT THE PALESTINIAN  
QUESTION CONSTITUTES THE KEY TO THE SOLUTION OF  
THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, WITHOUT THE SOLUTION OF  
WHICH THERE CAN BE NO STABILITY AND, BY THE SAME  
TOKEN, NO PEACE IN THIS REGION, EITHER.

11. ALL THIS REINFORCES ME IN MY CONVICTION THAT  
RIGHT NOW IT IS HIGH TIME FOR ALL FACTORS THAT DO  
OR CAN EXERT INFLUENCE ON THE COURSE OF EVENTS TO  
INVEST STILL GREATER EFFORTS AIMED AT REALIZING  
THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

12. A COMPREHENSIVE AND LASTING SOLUTION TO THE  
MIDDLE EAST CRISIS CAN BE ACHIEVED, IN MY OPINION -  
WHICH I HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED AND WHICH, APPARENTLY,  
HAS BEEN CONVINCINGLY CONFIRMED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE  
TRAGIC HISTORY OF THIS CRISIS - SOLELY THROUGH THE  
WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL TO THE 1967 BOUNDARIES, THROUGH  
THE REALIZATION OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE  
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PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION, INCLUDING  
THE RIGHT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THEIR OWN  
INDEPENDENT STATE, AND THROUGH THE RECOGNITION TO  
ALL STATES AND PEOPLES OF THIS REGION, BOTH TO THE  
ARABS AND TO ISRAEL, OF THE RIGHT TO PEACEFUL  
EXISTENCE AND SECURITY WITHIN MUTUALLY RECOGNIZED  
BOUNDARIES.

13. IT IS WITH PARTICULAR PLEASURE, MR. PRESIDENT,

THAT I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU SOON  
AND TO HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL  
ISSUES AND THE FURTHER PROMOTION OF  
FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

14. PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, MY BEST WISHES  
AND MY MOST SINCERE GREETINGS.

(SIGNED) JOSIP BROZ TITO  
IGALO, 9 JANUARY 1978  
END TEXT.

15. TANJUG THIS AFTERNOON INFORMED THE PRESS OF  
BERNARDIC'S DELIVERY TO ME OF A LETTER FROM TITO  
TO THE PRESIDENT WITH NO RPT NO MENTION OF ITS  
CONTENTS.  
EAGLEBURGER

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## Message Attributes

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